

must be added that K'ang did not seek to carry out at once all his program. As immediate steps he advocated much less drastic measures.

Under pressure from the reformers—of whom the three mentioned above were only among the more prominent—between the peace of Shimonoseki and the summer of 1898 a number of innovations were undertaken or projected by the provincial and national governments and by private initiative. Schools teaching Western subjects were founded and railways planned.

The reformers found a champion in the Emperor, Kuang Hsu. Not physically robust or forceful, brought up in the seclusion of the palace, with the masterful Tz'ii Hsi always keeping a vigilant eye upon him, Kuang Hsu had neither the vigor of personality nor the direct contact with the outside world to enable him to be the kind of leader which the dynasty and the Empire needed. However, he was intelligent, studious, felt that something must be done, and read eagerly some of the literature of the time, including the books of K'ang Yu-wei. In the summer of 1898, with K'ang as a confidant and adviser, he instituted what were later known as the hundred days of reform. During June, July, August, and September of that year, edict after edict was issued introducing changes.

Compared with the sweeping innovations of a few years later, none of the decrees advocated anything especially radical. Contrasted with the official conservatism of the time, however, they were amazing. Among them were ones ordering a modification of the civil service and military examinations, the establishment of a system of schools, including an imperial university for the study of the new as well as the old learning, the founding

of an official bureau of translation, the encouragement of railway building, military and naval reform, the opening to Manchus of professions other than office-holding, and the abolition of many sinecure posts.

The decrees inevitably aroused a storm of opposition from those who by conviction or interest were wedded to the old order and from some who, while willing to see change, believed the Emperor to be acting too precipitately. The situation was complicated by the rivalries of two factions at court, one of them, with its leadership from Kiangsu, disposed to countenance alterations to dis-